



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBTAIN CUSTODY

Vessel “**Serious Issues**,” WN # 4137 JC

In accordance with Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 79.100, the vessel *Serious Issues* (vessel), Washington Registration number WN 4137 JC, has been declared derelict as that term is defined in RCW 79.100.010(5). On or about November 19, 2009, the vessel was beached and breaking up near Penn Cove in Island County. On November 21, 2009, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) took possession of the vessel, in order to keep the vessel from further breaking up and to mitigate the threats it posed. Since it was in pieces on the beach, it was disposed of at the owner’s request.

DNR, acting as an authorized public entity with the authority granted in RCW 79.100, took formal and full custody of the above-named vessel on **November 21, 2009**. Once DNR obtains custody of the vessel, it is authorized to use or dispose of it in any appropriate and environmentally sound manner as provided in RCW 79.100, without further notice to the owner.

In order to challenge DNR’s taking temporary emergency possession, or DNR’s decision to take custody on **November 21, 2009**, the owner must file a written request for a hearing with DNR’s Aquatic Resources Division at 1111 Washington Street SE, PO Box 47027, Olympia WA 98504-7027. The written request can be submitted immediately after receipt of this notice, but cannot be filed any later than the twentieth day after **November 21, 2009**. The right to a hearing is deemed waived if a request is submitted late, and the owner is liable for any costs owed to DNR.

The costs the owner may be liable for include, but are not limited to, costs incurred by DNR while exercising the authority granted in RCW 79.100.030, all administrative costs incurred by DNR during the procedure set forth in RCW 79.100.040 and RCW 79.100.050, removal and disposal costs, and costs associated with environmental damages directly or indirectly caused by the vessel. In the event of litigation, the prevailing party is entitled to reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs. Also, the owner may be guilty of a misdemeanor for allowing a vessel to become abandoned or derelict on aquatic lands per RCW 79.100.110.

DNR reserves the right to pursue any other remedies available under law. For more information regarding this action, contact the Derelict Vessel Removal Program at (360) 902-1574 or DVRP@dnr.wa.gov.